

**A note on the 1998 influx of *Diachrysia orichalcea* Fabr. Slender Burnished Brass (Lep.: Noctuidae)**

The capture of one of these uncommon migrant moths in my garden m.v. trap on 24 September 1998 turned out to be less rare an occurrence than I had anticipated. Records so far located confirm that at least eight examples were noted between late August and late September of that year, together with at least two from the Channel Islands, as listed below.

28 August	Longrock, Cornwall
30 August	Guernsey, Channel Islands
1 September	Guernsey, Channel Islands
1 September	Isles of Scilly, Cornwall
5 September	Boskennel, Cornwall
17 September	Cury, Cornwall
20 September	Downderry, Cornwall
20 September	Dawlish, Devon
21 September	Pilton, Glamorgan
24 September	Bere Alston, Devon

It is apparent that their distribution was highly localised, being restricted to the extreme south-west of the country, and it seems that they arrived in two distinct waves: between the end of August and the first week of September and then again almost two weeks later. Excluding those from the Channel Islands, the number in 1998 equals the eight recorded 1983 and approaches, and may yet reach or exceed, pending further records, the all-time record of ten in 1969.—R.W. BOGUE, Tamar View, Tuckermarsh, Bere Alston, Devon PL20 7HB.

***Lithopane hepatica* Cl. (Lep.: Noctuidae) in north-west Kent**

Further to the example noted at my garden m.v. light at Dartford on 14 May 1989 (*Ent. Rec.* **104**: 321), I am pleased to report the presence of another specimen, on 8 April 1999, suggesting that the species is a scarce resident of this well-wooded area. However, prior to these two records there appears to be no definite record of the species for north-west Kent, and the moth is described by Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 1966:276) as scarce and chiefly Wealden.

Collins (*The Larger Moths of Surrey*, 1997) comments that for that county the insect has recently been taken in many new localities in the north and east, but remaining scarcer than *L. ornitopus* Hufn. and *L. semibrunnea* Haw. This trend, together with the extension of range from Surrey into north-west Kent of *Aporophyla nigra* Haw. and *Chloroclysta siterata* Hufn., suggests colonisation from north-east Surrey rather than the Kentish Weald.—B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.